



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2012

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **U.S. Heads for Warmest Year Recorded in Lower 48 States**—The U.S. is about to register the warmest year on record in the lower 48 states, and the world its ninth-hottest, a United Nations agency said in a report, adding new urgency to the quest to control global warming.
- **BP To Pay Largest Criminal Fine In U.S. History For Deepwater Horizon Disaster**—BP has agreed to pay a historic \$4.5 billion criminal fine over a six-year period, after pleading guilty to 11 felony counts and criminal charges for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers.
- **Another Oil Rig Explodes in the Gulf**—An oil rig owned by Black Elk Energy exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, roughly 17 miles south of Grand Isle, Louisiana. One worker was killed in the explosion, while four others were hospitalized with burns. Divers continue to search for another missing worker.
- **Senate Gives Green Light to Pentagon Green Energy Investment**—The Senate removed a provision in the FY13 NDAA that would have prohibited the military from spending money on alternative fuels if the cost exceeded traditional fossil fuels, such as oil, gas, or liquefied coal compounds.
- **EU Freezes Airlines Carbon Emissions Law**—The European Commission has made an unexpected climbdown over greenhouse gas emissions from airplanes, by suspending the carbon penalties it levies on flights taking off or landing from EU member states for one year.
- **Global Environmental Market Grew 4% in 2011**—Despite the embattled state of the global economy and resulting lack of political enthusiasm for tackling environmental and climate change issues, the \$866 billion global environmental market managed four percent growth in 2011.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Rep. Jim McDermott: *H.R. 6338, the Managed Carbon Price Act of 2012*

Bill Summary: Requires carbon emission permits for major polluters. Sets carbon reduction goals at 10 year intervals to result in 80% reductions in carbon output from 2005 levels by 2059. 75% of revenues generated from carbon permits would be returned to taxpayers in the form of dividends. The other 25% would go to deficit reduction.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All SEEC Members Win General Elections; 2 Elected to Senate—All 42 SEEC Members seeking re-election to the House on Nov. 6 won their races. Two SEEC Members, **Martin Heinrich** (NM) and **Mazie Hirono** (HI), will move to the Senate next January.

SEEC Members Top *Newsweek's* "Greenest" Politicians—6 SEEC Members were [named](#) America's greenest legislators by *Newsweek*, including Reps. **Barbara Lee** (CA), **Donna Edwards** (MD), **Lynn Woolsey** (CA), and SEEC co-chair **Gerry Connolly** (VA). Reps. **Raul Grijalva** (AZ) and SEEC vice-chair **Rush Holt** (NJ) took the number one and two spots, respectively. Among the factors considered were caucus memberships to groups such as SEEC.

SEEC Meets with Clean Energy CEOs and Investors—SEEC Members met members of the Advanced Energy Economy, including clean energy company CEOs, presidents, and investors, to continue a dialogue on clean energy financing and policies. This meeting was a follow-up to a SEEC meeting in September with the heads of think tanks and trade associations representatives on the same subject.

Wind PTC—SEEC Members continued to push for an extension to the wind production tax credit (PTC). SEEC Members Reps. [Dave Loebsack](#) (IA), [Barbara Lee](#) (CA), and [Lois Capps](#) (CA) took to the floor to speeches arguing for an extension of the critical credit that expires at the end of this month.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme—SEEC Member Rep. **Mike Honda** (CA) [expressed](#) disappointment in the passage of a bill that would prohibit U.S. airlines from participating in the EU's plan to reduce carbon emissions from the aviation sector.

Advocating for Clean Energy Financing—SEEC Member Rep. **Peter Welch** (VT) is leading a letter from House members to ask the President to support changes to regulations for master limited partnerships and renewable energy investment trusts. Rep. Welch is also co-chairing the new bipartisan Energy Savings Performance Caucus with Rep. Cory Gardner (CO).

Protecting the Great Lakes—SEEC Member Rep. **Louise Slaughter** (NY) is urging the Administration to provide at least \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in its FY14 budget request.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **1.5 gigawatts**—Installed wind capacity in 1992, the year the Production Tax Credit was passed.
- ◆ **45 gigawatts**—Installed wind capacity at the end of 2011, approximately 3% of total U.S. power generation.
- ◆ **6.5 million**—Barrels of crude oil produced per day in the United States in the month of September, the highest volume in nearly 15 years.
- ◆ **71%**—Percentage of "millennials" (born between '81 and '93) that believe American energy policy should focus more on alternative energy sources as opposed to oil, coal, and natural gas.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

[Niki Tsongas @nikiinthehouse](#): [#MA](#) approved contract with NSTAR for offshore wind power yesterday, great news for our energy goals & job creation